01278

1964/08/06

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - 20301

PLEASE NOTE DATE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 6, 1964 NO. 579-64
OXford 5-3201 (Info.)
OXford 7-3189 (Copies)

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SUMMARY OF CARRIER AIR STRIKES
AGAINST TARGETS IN NORTH VIETNAM

Following are the results, based on latest reports, of the 64 attack strike sorties flown from the U.S. Navy aircraft carriers USS TICONDEROGA and USS CONSTELLATION to five targets in the Gulf of Tonkin, North Vietnam:

(a) Of the some 30 patrol craft sighted during the attacks, it is is estimated that 25 patrol boats were destroyed or damaged.

(b) Ninety percent of petroleum storage facility at VINH destroyed.

(c) Seven (7) antiaircraft installations in VINH area destroyed or severely damaged.

The USS TICONDEROGA aircraft conducted three of the attacks against North Vietnam patrol boat concentrations and their associated support facilities. One strike was on the boats and facilities located at QUANG KHE. The second and third were on additional boats and activities at PHUC LOI and on the petroleum storage area located at nearby VINH. In addition, there was also a re-strike made on the VINH oil storage area.

The QUANG KHE attack, which took place at 1:15 a.m. EDT, was accomplished by 6 F-8 "Crusader" jets. The strike at PHUC LOI, including the nearby oil storage area at VINH, was conducted at 1:25 a.m. EDT by 6 F-8 "Crusader," 6 A-4 "Skyhawk," and 4 A-1 "Skyraider" aircraft. Ten A-4 "Skyhawk" and 4 F-8 "Crusader" jets participated in the re-strike at VINH at 4:45 a.m. EDT. An estimated 8 storage tanks were set ablaze during the first attack on VINH. From 2 to 4 additional tanks were set ablaze during the second raid.

Moderate antiaircraft fire was encountered during the first strike on VINH and 2 antiaircraft positions near the oil storage area were attacked and destroyed. During the re-strike, a heavier concentration of antiaircraft was encountered and an estimated 5 guns of a 6-gun position were subsequently destroyed.

One (1) "Crusader" aircraft sustained flak damage during the first attack on VINH but proceeded safely to DANANG, South Vietnam.

Navy aircraft from the carrier CONSTELLATION began a simultaneous attack on the remaining two targets, HON GAY and LOC CHAO at 3:45 a.m. EDT. Ten (10) A-4 "Skyhawks," 2 F-4 "Phantoms," and 4 A-1 "Skyraiders," participated in the attack on HON GAY. Five (5) A-4 "Skyhawks," 3 F-4 "Phantoms," and 4 A-1 "Skyraiders" participated in the raid on LOC CHAO.

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Five (5) patrol craft were sighted during the attack on HON GAY and it was estimated that all 5 were destroyed. At LOC CHAO, 2 of the 6 patrol craft sighted were seriously damaged. Both attacks lasted 25 minutes.

Aircraft attacking HON GAY experienced moderate to heavy antiaircraft fire during the attack from numerous gun positions on the hill overlooking the harbor. Also, all operating guns aboard all of the patrol craft were fired throughout the attack. The Navy aircraft utilized 2.75" rocket and 20mm strafing attacks at both HON GAY and LOC CHAO.

One (1) A-4 "Skyhawk" from CONSTELLATION was shot down by antiaircraft fire during the attack on HON GAY. The pilot reported he was hit after completing his second attack on the patrol boats in HON GAY harbor. He indicated that his plane was uncontrollable and that he was ejecting. Witnessing pilots, who were also being subjected to heavy antiaircraft fire, indicated that they saw a splash approximately 3 miles from the harbor entrance, which could have been the downed "Skyhawk." A 60 second "beeper" which is normally activated when a chute opens was heard over the radio, but there has been no confirmed report of the sighting of a parachute. Lt. (JG) Everett Alvarez, Jr., of San Jose, California, previously reported as missing, was the pilot of this plane.

A second aircraft from CONSTELLATION, an A-1 "Skyraider" was lost due to antiaircraft fire during the attack on LOC CHAO. No parachute was seen and the aircraft was observed to crash into the sea in the vicinity of the LOC CHAO ESTUARY.

A third aircraft from CONSTELLATION, an A-1 "Skyraider" was hit by antiaircraft fire in the vicinity of LOC CHAO but made a safe return to the ship with minor damage.

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